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Intelligence Group Plans Naples Chapter



Conference on Terrorism and Subversion

By JIM LOCKHART
Staff Writer

The success of the recent National Intelligence Symposium has helped spur interest in a Naples chapter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, according to one of the event's organizers.

"We're definitely going to go ahead with it," said John Anson Smith, during a break in the two-day event. "We'd been contemplating a chapter in Naples for some months, but we felt we had to get this (the symposium) done first."

"THERE'S AN ample number of people here," Smith said. "We have people from military intelligence, retired CIA and FBI and so forth."

There currently is an AFIO chapter in Fort Myers, as well as ones in Sarasota, Indiatlantic and West PALM Beach, with about 400 total members in

Florida.

Nationwide, there are 18 chapter with about 3,200 members.

Smith was overwhelmed with the response to the symposium, at which four retired intelligence officers discussed the problems and progress of the nation's intelligence systems, as well as the threats from the intelligence systems of communist countries. Smith coordinated the two-day event, which was Co-sponsored by the Naples Daily News and Palmer Communications.

"THERE'S BEEN nothing but positive reponse from everyone," he said. "I've received a number of phone calls. The people have been

outspoken and say we've performed a great public service."

He said the audience was perceptive of the candor of the speakers, but also was aware that there were gray areas the speakers could not go into because of security reasons.

Conversely, the speakers were very impressed with the audience's awareness. One of the reasons Naples was chosen as the site of the symposium, Smith said, was

because its residents represent a cross-section of America.

"They asked very articulate questions and expressed themselves well," Smith said.

John K. Greaney, AFIO's executive director, said the organization is in favor of holding more symposiums, both in Naples and throughout the nation.

FOR A FUTURE event, he said, AFIO would like to bring in a speaker who is currently involved in intelligence matters and could provide a contemporary perspective to the discussion.

Greaney credited much of the symposium's success to its co-chairmen, former Congressmen Leslie C. Arends and industrialist Harold P. Ransburg.

Arends contributed his background from the political side, Greaney said, while Ransburg brought expertise from the financial world.